



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

URGENT HEALTH MATTER – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Gonorrhea Treatment Information Sheet Important Information About *Your* Health

(This Treatment Information Sheet is intended for sex partners of persons with Gonorrhea)

Your sex partner has been treated for gonorrhea. Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex (oral, vaginal or anal) with a person who already has it. You may have been exposed to gonorrhea infection. Gonorrhea is easily treated with the medicine cefixime (also known as Suprax). Your sex partner has given you a cefixime (a pill) medicine or a prescription for cefixime medicine. This medicine or prescription was given to your sex partner by a doctor or other medical provider to treat YOU.

It is important for you to see your own doctor or clinic provider as soon as possible to be examined and tested for this infection. If you cannot have an exam in the next several days, you should take the cefixime pill that was provided to you, or have the prescription that was given to you filled at your local pharmacy, and take the medication as instructed by the pharmacist. It is very important to see a doctor as soon as possible to get examined and tested for this and other STDs. People can have more than one STD at the same time. Cefixime will not cure other STDs. Having STDs can increase your risk of getting human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). You may also want to get a test for HIV.

WHAT IS GONORRHEA?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacteria (germ) called *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Gonorrhea is a curable sexually transmitted disease (STD) that you can get from having sex with a person who already has it. Many people with gonorrhea do not know they have it because they have no symptoms and feel fine. Some people may notice symptoms:

SYMPTOMS OF GONORRHEA

ALL - Some people DO NOT experience or notice any signs or symptoms at all.

MEN – may notice a discharge (drip) from their penis, pain or discomfort while urinating (peeing), pain or swelling in their testicles (balls) or pain in the lower part of the belly.

WOMEN – may notice an unusual vaginal discharge, or pain or burning when urinating (peeing) and increased need to urinate (pee); pain during sex, bleeding between periods or after sex, lower abdominal (belly), or pelvic (hip) pain or cramps or. Women can become infertile (unable to have children) if they don't get treated (medicine).

BEFORE TAKING THE MEDICINE, PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

Cefixime is a very safe antibiotic. However, **DO NOT take it if any of the following are true:**

- You are female and have lower belly pain, pain during sex, vomiting or fever.
- You are male and have pain or swelling in the testicles or fever.
- You have had a bad reaction, rash, breathing problems, or allergic reaction after taking azithromycin, or other antibiotics. People who are allergic to some antibiotics may also be allergic to other types. If you do have allergies to antibiotics, you should be examined by your medical provider before taking this medicine.
- You have a serious long-term illness, such as kidney, heart or liver disease.
- If you are currently taking another prescription medication, including medicine for diabetes, consult your pharmacist or medical provider before taking the medication to ask about drug interactions.
- If any of these circumstances exist, or if you are not sure, do not take the cefixime. Instead, you should talk to your doctor or medical provider as soon as possible. Your doctor or medical provider will find the best treatment for you.

WARNINGS:

- If you performed oral sex on someone who was infected with gonorrhea, the medicine may not work as well. You need to see a doctor to get stronger medicine.
- If you do not take medicine to cure gonorrhea, you can get very sick. If you are a woman, you may get chronic (long-term) pelvic pain and might not be able to have children.
- If you are pregnant, seek medical evaluation before taking the medicine.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING CEFIXIME

DO take the pill given to you, cefixime – 400 milligrams, by mouth with a full glass of water, with or without food. By taking the pill with food, you are less likely to get an upset stomach, and the medicine will work better in your body. You need to take the medicine you were given to be cured.

DO NOT take antacids (such as Tums, Roloids, or Maalox) for one hour before or two hours after taking the cefixime pill.

DO NOT give this medicine to others. It is intended for sex partners of persons who have gonorrhea.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Possible side effects of taking this medicine include:

- Slightly upset stomach
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Vaginal yeast infection

These are well-known side effects and are not serious. Very few people experience any of these problems.

